GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3935
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
EXTRA EXPENDITURE ON PROCUREMENTS
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an extra expenditure of Rs.31.98 crore was incurred by the Railways on procurement of 106.59 lakh cum of ballast as has been brought out by the CAG in its Audit Brochure 2001 on page 41;

(b) whether a test check of contracts for procurement of cum of ballast revealed that the same were procured both through open tender as well as through limited tenders and the rates in respect of limited tender agreements were higher than through open tenders;

(c) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into for incurring extra expenditure and accountability and responsibility fixed on officials responsible for causing financial loss to Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIST RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Ballast is procured through open tender as well as through limited tenders. The rates of ballast depends on several factors, such as lead involved from quarry to work site, availability of approach roads & labour, completion time of ballast supply etc. Tenders for procurement of ballast are finalized by a Committee constituted for the purpose who examine the reasonableness of rates keeping in view the various factors stated above.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.